East Asian Research Center

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
Room 301, 1737 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
Telephone: (617) 495-4046

Ezra F. Vogel, *Director*
Albert M. Craig, *Associate Director* (Japan)
Dwight H. Perkins, *Associate Director* (China)
Benjamin I. Schwartz, *Associate Director* (Research Policy)

March 12, 1974

Mr. Irv Drasnin, Producer
CBS News
524 West 57th Street
New York, New York 10019

Dear Irv:

I excused myself from a dinner party at 10 p.m. last Friday, snuck away to the basement to see your hour-long movie on Shanghai. Compared to most documentaries of China, where I am left feeling that they more or less caught the spirit but they didn't put it quite right, I was delighted with the subtleties and nuances of your comments. From the point of view of a specialist, there is an extraordinary difference when somebody like you produces a film and when someone less knowledgeable produces a film. I was particularly impressed with the subtle ways in which you mixed in the view of Shanghai in China's past and the view of Shanghai from the point of view of communist leaders who went through an experience like Yenan into the present fabric with information about family life, commerce, industry, pollution, all combined with nuances that were on the button. Congratulations.

We still have frequent calls for "Misunderstanding China," which we let bonified local scholars show. I am following up your advice to write your boss about the possibility of making use of some of your excess footage for educational purposes.

Best wishes,

Sincerely,

Ezra

Ezra F. Vogel

EFV/alsr